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## I. POTENTIAL NEW GROUND OF REJECTION

Applicant notes that no claims in the instant application, or its parent application, have ever been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, for terminology not "particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter." The Examiner's Answer places an undue burden on the Applicant by stating that "However, the term, "relatively independent is vague and presumes there is a relative dependency as well." [Examiner's Answer p. 6, ¶4] This is particularly difficult to address inside an art rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. It is unclear if the rejection is that the invention is anticipated or that the claim terminology is vague.

## II. REJECTION BASED ON ART

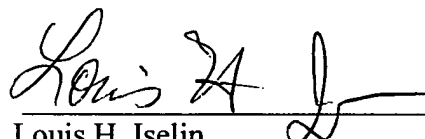
The Examiner's Answer argues that the claim term "relatively independent" presumes the meaning "relatively dependent," that is, "[T]he control signal PEN of Lee, which enables the transistor 32 is relatively dependent of the supply voltage, that is, the control signal PEN is relatively independent of the supply voltage." [Examiner's Answer pp. 6-7] Applicant respectfully traverses this contention. The Examiner's Answer builds on this to reject claim 1 by anticipation. If the claim limitation at issue had been "relatively dependent," then the rejection may have been proper. However, the claim limitation at issue is the opposite of that. The claim term "relatively independent" has not been shown to be taught or fairly suggested by the cited

art. For the Examiner's Answer to be correct, "A" and "not A" would have to have the same meaning.

Applicant has not argued that the claim term "relatively independent" is absolute. Relative and other subjective terminology qualifying degree are widely used in patent practice. Applicant's position is that the claim term "relatively independent" affirmatively recites that the relationship in question provides more independence than dependence. The Examiner has not shown that the cited art teaches or fairly suggests **independence** in any way. The Examiner has failed to show that the art of record teaches or fairly suggests all of the limitations of the claims, thus the claims are allowable over the cited art.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis H. Iselin", written over a horizontal line.

Louis H. Iselin  
Reg. No. Reg. No. 42,684

Agent for Applicant

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON  
7676 Hillmont, Suite 250  
Houston, Texas 77040  
(713) 934-4089

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